



# San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Makini M. Hammond, Deputy City Attorney, (619) 533-5675; San Diego City Attorney Media Information, (619) 235-5725.

### **LOCAL MOTEL PLAGUED BY PROSTITUTION AND DRUGS CLOSSES ITS DOORS**

*Drug Abatement Response Team and Community Members Declare Victory Against Crime*

**San Diego, CA (May 14, 2001)** -- A local motel plagued by prostitution and drug activity is closing its doors tomorrow, thanks to the efforts of the City of San Diego's Drug Abatement Response Team. By **8 a.m., Tuesday, May 15, 2001**, all residents of the Travel Time Motel, located at 5447 El Cajon Boulevard, must have their bags packed and their rooms vacated. As a condition of a court order, the motel, which is next door to an elementary school, is being sold. The motel is to remain closed for one week to give the new owners a fresh start and a clean image.

Last July, the San Diego couple, who operated the Travel Time Motel, pleaded no contest to criminal charges of maintaining a disorderly house, maintaining a public nuisance, and failing to produce the motel's guest register when asked by police. The owners also admitted they were in violation of a civil injunction issued against them. San Diego Superior Court Judge Thomas Murphy ordered Chiu-Chi Chiang and Jiin-Fong Kao Chiang to sell their motel and to pay more than \$47,000 in costs to the City of San Diego. The defendants were also ordered, as a condition of probation, not to own or operate any motels within the City of San Diego.

The Travel Time Motel was the subject of an investigation by the City's Drug Abatement Response Team, composed of the San Diego Police Department, Neighborhood Code Compliance, and the City Attorney's Office. DART investigators documented the drug and prostitution activity occurring at the motel, and DART prosecutors filed the nuisance case against the owners. "This is a victory for the City's DART team and for the community members who have been plagued by the prostitution and drug activity at this motel," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said.

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